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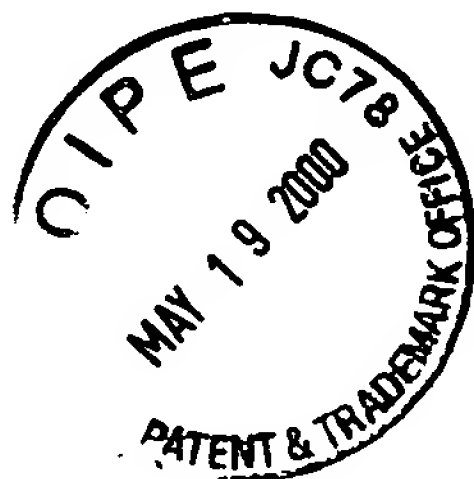
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David SIDRANSKY

Serial No. 09/164,764

Filed: October 1, 1998



) Attn: Box AF

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) Examiner: Souaya

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) Group Art Unit 1653

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) Atty. Dkt. No. 01107.76459

For: **DETECTION OF HYPERMUTABLE NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCE IN TISSUE**

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 19, 2000, applicant requests reconsideration of the patentability of the claims. Applicant appreciates the telephonic interview granted by the Examiner Souaya. The substance of the comments made by the applicant during the interview are recorded here.

A one-month extension of time is requested. A check for \$55.00 is attached.

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 24, delete "blood,".

REMARKS

Claims 23-34 are pending. Dependent claim 24 has been amended to delete one member of a Markush group. Independent claim 23 remains generic in scope.

Each of the claims is rejected as either anticipated by de la Chapelle, U.S. 5,871,925 or obvious over de la Chapelle (ibid) in view of three secondary references. de la Chapelle is apparently confusing in that it teaches two distinct diagnostic methods. The underlying disease

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